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AROUND THE WORLD

Prisoner Swap Effort Reported

JOHANNESBURG — Secret contacts are under way in hopes of arranging release of jailed Soviet dissident Anatoly Scharansky in exchange for a Soviet citizen imprisoned on espionage charges in South Africa, a Johannesburg newspaper reported.

[Rabbi Ronald Greenwald, identified by the Johannesburg Sunday Times as the intermediary, denied in a telephone conversation from his New York home that any deal has been struck. He confirmed the newspaper's report that he had been in South Africa recently, but said the trip was in connection with his business as a U.S. representative for the black South African homeland of Bophuthatswana and had nothing to do with a prisoner swap.]

South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha announced Jan. 26 that South African police had arrested a Soviet spy, whom he identified as Maj. Alexei Kozlov.